FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

5 MAY 1986

DRA

PDPA Central Committee Secretary Najibullah was unanimously elected PDPA general secretary at a 4 May PDPA Central Committee plenum following unanimous approval of Babrak Karmal's "proposal" that he be relieved of that post because of "health reasons," according to Kabul radio reports. Karmal retained his posts as president of the DRA Revolutionary Council and as a member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo. For his part, Najibullah, in his acceptance speech, affirmed his intention to "consistently follow" the DRA's domestic and foreign policy lines, and declared that the "further strengthening" of the DRA's friendship with the USSR "constitutes" the basis of the DRA's work. In a speech delivered at the plenum cited by Kabul radio, Council of Ministers chairman Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand noted Najibullah's "outstanding" talent as head of Khad and commended his belief in "collective and consultative" leadership.

In more reportage on the recent fighting in Zhawar, Paktia Province, Kabul radio reported that rebel bases in that area were "completely destroyed," and claimed that over 3,000 "counter-revolutionaries" were killed, including "almost all" of their ringleaders, and approximately 4,000 were injured. In another report, the radio asserted that 125 rebels from the Enqelab-e Eslami movement and from Gulbuddin Hikmatyar's group recently "joined" the security forces in Jowzjan and Faryab Provinces. In other action, 19 officers and communist officials were killed in Qandahar City in a 29 April rebel rocket attack during festivities marking the 8th anniversary of the April Revolution, Riyadh radio reported.

Pakistan

Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan made a 90-minute stopover in Moscow 4 May while on his way to Geneva for the seventh round of "indirect" talks on Afghanistan, Karachi radio reported. While in Moscow, Khan held talks with USSR Foreign Ministry officials, including Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Komplektov and with CPSU Central Committee member Georgiy Korniyenko, during a luncheon.

Iran-Iraq War

A source "close" to the UN secretary general has disclosed that the latter's statements on the Iran-Iraq war have been "distorted" by Rabat radio, IRNA reported 3 May. The source added that the UN secretary general announced in an interview 1 month ago that Iran had rejected his 8-point plan due to Iraq's insistence on a cease-fire as a precondition for holding talks.

With regard to military strategy, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn revealed a "new approach" aimed at destroying the Iranian Army "everywhere," in Dezful, Khorramshahr, or in "any" area of Iran as long as the war continues and Iranians occupy Iraqi territory, according to INA.

As for combat developments, a military report cited by IRNA claimed that over 4,000 Iraqis were killed or wounded in an Iranian attack 2 May in the Faqqeh region, inside Iran's Khuzestan Province. The report also asserted that more than 76 Iraqi tanks, 110 personnel carriers, and a large amount of equipment were destroyed. On the other hand, a communique carried by Voice of the Masses radio 2 May contended that Iran sustained 2,730 casualties during Iraq's recent "triumphant" offensive in that region.

Another communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio 3 May announced that over 750 Iranians were killed or wounded after an Iranian counterattack in the East Maysan sector was thwarted during 2-3 May. Further south, more than 100 Iranians were killed in the Al-Faw area during 3 unsuccessful Iranian attacks, the communique added, while the 2 May communique reported over 50 Iranian dead due to various Iraqi fire in the same sector. Conversely, in a 4 May report, Tehran radio noted a "limited" Iranian offensive in the Al-Faw region against Iraqi tank positions resulting in the destruction of several of them.

In further reportage on the 1 May attack on a Saudi oil tanker off the Abu Dhabi coast, the Bahrain paper *GULF DAILY NEWS* asserted that an Iranian aircraft carried out the raid.

Libya

In a statement broadcast by Tripoli television 4 May, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi urged the Japanese people to stage mass demonstrations in order to prevent President Reagan's arrival in Japan and cause the cancellation of the Tokyo summit. The television also broadcast his interview with a Japanese television correspondent in which Al-Qadhdhafi said he was "surprised" that the conferees in Tokyo should discuss terrorism with "the No 1 terrorist, mad Reagan, who should be in the dock and be tried for a crime against the whole of mankind."

In other developments, Al-Qadhdhafi received Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi in Tripoli 4 May, Tripoli television noted. Armed Forces Commander Brigadier General Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir received a Sudanese military delegation headed by the Sudanese Armed Forces commander, Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio noted, adding that the visitors conveyed messages expressing Sudan's support for Libya against any "aggression."

Sudan

A Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) official announced the political composition of the new government in a statement reported by SUNA 4 May, disclosing that the Al-Ummah National Party will receive eight portfolios, the DUP will have

six, and four will go to other parties. The Islamic National Front (INF) was not included in this list, but the official disclosed that the two largest parties will concede one portfolio each to the INF if the latter agrees to participate in the government. Earlier, an INF official told SUNA that his party will not participate in the government if the National Charter fails to take shari'ah law into account.

As for the southern problem, Prime Minister-designate Sadiq al-Mahdi disclosed in remarks reported by MENA that he is considering a proposal by SPLA leader John Garang for a meeting. Meanwhile, the defense minister told the UAE's *AL-KHALIJ* that the military situation in the south is "relatively stable" and he claimed that the Armed Forces could recapture Rumbek at any time, according to WAM. On the other hand, the clandestine SPLA radio maintained that the government's attempt to retake Rumbek is in "deep trouble" and that government troops are currently 60 miles from the city.

Egypt

Islamic extremist groups may have obtained some of the 20,000 weapons missing from police camps in Asyut following the February riots, according to a *ROSE AL-YUSUF* report cited by Voice of Lebanon radio.

In other developments, the UAE paper *AL-ITTIHAD* reported that Egypt has rejected a PLO request to open offices in a number of Egyptian cities and to publicly engage in political activity. The paper claimed that Egypt based its decision on the "current political situation" which precludes a "development of relations," although noting that the government affirmed its intention to continue to give the PLO "total political support."

Syria

Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam was wounded in an "assassination attempt" in Damascus last week according to a "high-level" source cited by the UAE paper *AL-ITTIHAD*. The source added that Khaddam's driver was killed and two others were wounded, but did not elaborate on the seriousness of the vice president's wounds although revealing that he was admitted to hospital. In another development, Beirut Voice of Lebanon radio citing "diplomatic sources" in Damascus reported that demonstrations took place in Tartus and Latakia last week calling for the return of Rif'at al-Asad. The sources alleged that the protests are the result of "tension" between al-Asad and Khaddam, and asserted that the latter is striving to "keep Al-Asad away."

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Karmal Resigns PDPA General Secretary Post

Health Reasons Cited

AU041550 Paris AFP in English 1541 GMT 4 May 86

[Text] Islamabad, May 4 (AFP) — Afghan President Babrak Karmal stepped down Sunday as head of the Afghan Communist Party, TASS reported here, but he retains the lesser position of president of the Revolutionary Council, Radio Kabul monitored here, reported Sunday. The state-run radio said Mr. Karmal had been replaced by Dr Najibullah. Mr. Karmal, who had returned from a month-long stay in the Soviet Union, has been ill and he expressed his inability to continue as Afghan ruler on health grounds, the radio said.

It said prime minister Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand read out Mr. Karmal's statement at the plenum of the ruling party which unanimously elected Dr. Najibullah as his successor.

Mr. Karmal, aged 57, had come to power in the wake of the Soviet invasion in December 1979. He was the longest-serving communist ruler in Afghanistan.

Kabul Reports CC Plenum Meeting

LD041732 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 May 86

[Text] The 18th PDPA Central Committee Plenum was held today, 4 May, under the chairmanship of the Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, and discussed organizational matters. The plenum read and discussed the proposal of Comrade Babrak Karmal concerning his resignation from the post of general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee.

Saleh Mohammad Ziray, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee; Abdul Rashid Arain, member of the Central Committee responsible for the Party Control Committee and deputy chairman of the Revolutionary Council; Abdul Majid Sarboland, member of the Central Committee and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers; Major General Muhammad Afzal Loddin, candidate member of the Central Committee and commander of the Central Military Corps; Fazal Ahmad Toghian, candidate member of the Central Committee and chairman of the Executive Committee of Kabul city's People's Representative Council; and Abdul Rashid Majedi, candidate member of the Central Committee and deputy minister of nationalities and tribal affairs spoke and approved the proposal of Comrade Babrak Karmal.

After talks and discussion in a completely free and democratic atmosphere the participants voted and accepted the resignation of Comrade Babrak Karmal because of health reasons.

The PDPA Plenum expressed appreciation to Comrade Babrak Karmal for performing his duties over several years as general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and for his part in the victory of April Revolution. The plenum wished him success in his duties as president of the DRA Revolutionary Council and member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo.

The PDPA Central Committee Plenum discussed the proposal of the PDPA Central Committee Political Bureau, submitted by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, to appoint Comrade Najibullah general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee.

Nur Ahmad Nur, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and deputy chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council; Abdozzuhor Razmjo, candidate member of the Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the Kabul City Party Committee; Mir Saheb Karwal, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Niaz Mohammad Mohmand, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Gol Dad, member of the PDPA Central Committee and deputy chairman of Council of Ministers; Major General Shahnawaz Tanay, member of the PDPA Central Committee and DRA Chief of General Staff; Nezamoddin Tahzib, member of the PDPA Central Committee and head of the DRA Supreme Court; Ahmad Shah Sorkhabi, member of the PDPA Central Committee and minister of irrigation and water resources; Gholam Dastagir Panjsheri, member of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Union of Writers and Poets; Abdol Satar Pordeli, member of the PDPA Central Committee and head of the Central Council of DRA Trade Unions; Farid Ahmad Mozdak, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee and first secretary of the Democratic Youth of Afghanistan expressed their views and voted.

The plenum unanimously appointed Comrade Najib as general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee. At the end of the meeting Comrade Najib made a short speech and expressed gratitude for the trust of the PDPA Central Committee.

'Text' of Resignation Statement

LD041918 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 4 May 86

["Text" of proposal submitted by Babrak Karmal on his resignation as general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, at 4 May Central Committee Plenum — announcer-read]

[Text] Comrades: After much thinking, I have decided, due to my perception of my responsibilities and because of health reasons, and after a careful assessment of my possibilities and of the issues and international problems, to request that you accept my resignation from the position of general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee.

In view of your positive decision I want to express my gratitude to the cofighting party comrades, including the leadership group, cadres, and ranks who have cooperated collectively and with sacrifices in strengthening the party ranks.

All my devout and conscious life has been devoted to the party, to the revolution, to the toiling and noble people of Afghanistan, and to the proud and beloved homeland — Afghanistan. At this moment I believe that the leadership of the PDPA will perfect the prideful and heroic tradition of our party.

I invite you, party comrades, to hold dear the unity of the party ranks, like the apple of your eye, and protect it. Respect the unity

and solidarity of the party, the unity of the people of all nationalities, tribes and clans of our united homeland — beloved Afghanistan — on the basis of equal rights and with a revolutionary, patriotic, and internationalist spirit.

I once more urge the party and all the toiling and free-born people of Afghanistan, with all respect and humility, to profoundly broaden the historic and eternal Afghan-Soviet friendship as the infallible national principle of Afghanistan, which is the strong foundation for all of our victories and valuable national wealth, and safeguard it for ever.

I regard it as my national and international duty to express once more my profound gratitude to the party and government leadership and to the great Soviet people for their all-round and internationalist and selfless assistance to our persecuted people.

You must fight with all your power and energy and with decisive confidence for the victory of the April Revolution, for the final victory of the national, democratic, [words indistinct] imperialist revolution, at this historic stage, on the basis of the conference documents, party plenums, the theses dated 9 November 1985, and the resolutions of the DRA Revolutionary Council and 16th Plenum.

In this just struggle against the undeclared war of reaction, imperialism, and the counterrevoltuionaries you must forge ahead with decisiveness and courage for the restoration of peace and nationwide national security in our beloved country.

Comrades: As a member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, as president of the Revolutionary Council, and as president of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium, I state once again that I will devote all my life, energy and possibilities, and my long experience of over 37 years of revolutionary struggle on the basis of revolutionary theory and its application in the particular historic conditions of the country, for peace, freedom, progress, and the prosperity of the toiling and courageous Afghan people, for the construction of a new society of revolutionary Afghanistan, for the consolidation of the further unity of the party, and for the final victory of the April Revolution.

I will sacrifice my life and blood for the prosperity of the people and for our beloved homeland — new and revolutionary Afghanistan.

With all respect, Babrak Karmal

Keshtmand Speech at PDPA Plenum

LD042006 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 4 May 86

[Speech by Solyan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, chairman of the DPA Council of Ministers at 4 May PDPA Central Committee Plenum — announcer-read]

[Text] Comrades and members of the Central Committee: Our plenum is being conducted in a climate of complete unity of views. The proposal of Comrade Babrak Karmal concerning his resignation from the post of general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee because of his health was unanimously approved. Allow me, on behalf of the plenum, to express appreciation to Comrade Babrak Karmal for his work of many years in the top party role and for his competent role in the evolution of the April Revolution, and to wish him health and successful work in the DRA Revolutionary Council.

Comrade members of the Central Committee: In our party a large number of talented leading cadres have been trained and are carrying out duties in the high positions of the Central Committee, government, and Armed Forces. The Central Committee Politburo, with a feeling of great responsibility to party and people and with an exact understanding of the importance of the post of general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, and after an all-round assessment, are proposing that Comrade Najib be elected to this post.

Comrade Najib enjoys a great and good reputation among the members of the party and the people. Throughout his adult life he has been a model of servitude to the PDPA and to our people. Most of the comrades present are personally familiar with the revolutionary activity of Comrade Najib from his educational years onward. In accordance with the instructions of the Central Committee Politburo, Comrade Najib together with Comrade Karmal has played an important part in the organization and evolution of the organizational structure of party. The revolutionary talent of Comrade Najib became outstanding in the post of head of the State Information Service [KHAD]. He established this organization under the leadership of the Central Committee and with the cooperation of party officials, and prepared the ground for the State Information Service to be transformed into a powerful and influential weapon of the April Revolution and a firm defender of the new society against the aggression of imperialism, regional reaction, and internal counterrevolutionaries.

Comrade Najib has played a competent part in the creation of the modern DRA Armed Forces.

The 16th PDPA Central Committee Plenum, taking a principled view, and taking into account the all-around energy and knowledge of Comrade Najib, unanimously elected him Central Committee secretary. The Politburo gave to Comrade Najib difficult and decisive sections such as party organizational matters and military issues. We can see that he has worked with self-sacrifice in this sphere. Comrade Najib has worked successfully with the tribes and nationalities and is enjoying a noticeable [words indistinct] among their leaders and elders.

One of the outstanding qualities of Comrade Najib, who has been a member of the Politburo since 1981, is his belief in collective and consultative leadership and his respectful approach to the views of the party comrades and members of the Central Committee Comrade Najib listens with attention to the demands, proposals, and criticism of members of party, youth and womens' organizations, representative of peasants, workers, and intellectuals, and private investors.

Comrade Najib is a faithful son of the people of Afghanistan and is an experienced soldier of his party. He is a relentless inter-

nationalist and a firm friend of the Soviet Union. He was a member of the official DRA delegation to the 27th CPSU Congress.

The Central Committee Politburo believes that Comrade Najib deserves the trust of the party and will be able to carry out the duties of general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee successfully and smoothly. All members of the Central Committee will undoubtedly support him in his honorable work on the interest of our people.

Najibullah Addresses Central Committee

LD042007 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 4 May 86

[Speech by Comrade Najibollah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, to the 18th Plenum of the PDPA Central Committee on 4 May — announcer-read]

[Text] Esteemed comrades of the Politburo and members of the PDPA Central Committee. Allow me to express thanks and appreciation for the services of esteemed Comrade Babrak Karmal in establishing, strengthening, and developing the party and for his services to the April Revolution; and my sincere and warm thanks for the great trust expressed my election as general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, which I will (?regard) as a party honor and the supreme trust and confidence of my party.

I fully realize the great burden of this responsibility which has been entrusted to me by you comrades. I assure you, comrades, and undertake to make efforts to realize the aspirations and objectives of my beloved party and of the April Revolution by unswervingly observing the tested progressive and revolutionary principles which have shown us the governing laws and the direction of revolutionary struggle, the construction of new society, and the ways and means of achieving it under the present conditions of the country as a humble soldier of the party with the support, will, and wisdom of all party members, its Central Committee, and Politburo.

I will consistently follow the golden principles of the DRA's domestic and foreign policy and will spent all energy, power, wisdom and knowledge in this way. I will regard the consolidation of unity and solidarity of the party rank and file as a supreme duty and will dedicate all my efforts to achieving this. The unity of thought and action of the party members is a great force and guarantor of victory and enhances our party's leading role.

Our party will continue unswervingly and consistently to implement the resolutions and decisions of the 16th and 17th PDPA Central Committee Plenums and the 10 Theses of the Revolutionary Council. Together with the mobilization of all factors, it will continue to accelerate, expand, and consolidate the social bases of the people's revolutionary power and provide for possibilities for the active participation of workers, peasants, tradesmen, intelligentsia, private [words indistinct], national traders, clergy, women, youth, and representatives of all nationalities, tribes, and clans of the country in social and state affairs.

Comrades, the strengthening of the DRA Armed Forces and enhancement of their combat cabilities will be first among party and state tasks in order to intensify the struggle against the undeclared war in the country, end bloodshed, and establish peace and tranquillity in the homeland. The further strengthening and all-round enrichment of our friendship with our great neighbor, the Soviet Union, the party of the great Lenin and its heroic sincere, and sympathatic people constitutes the basis of our work.

The PDPA consistently and unswervingly will continue its friendship and cooperation with the fraternal parties and the socialist countries and will consolidate its friendly relations with nonaligned countries and all parties and organizations fighting for the peace and progress of the mankind. The present conditions and situation require all party members to actively work and struggle under the banner of our beloved party for the implementation of the lofty and humane aspirations of the PDPA and the April Revolution in one untied and comradely collective, with revolutionary optimism, with the realization of the need for the new type work, with love for the toiling people and in service to the people and the homeland.

While expressing thanks from the bottom of my heart for the warm and sincere words of Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, which he expressed on behalf of the party Politburo, I once again express thanks for the sincere support and help of your comrades, and assure the party Central Committee and its Politburo and all party members that I will use all of my ability and energy for this great (?task) and to make myself worthy of this great trust.

Biography of Najibullah

LD042033 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 4 May 86

[Text] Biography of Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee: Comrade Najib born in 1947, the son of a government employee. He is of the Pashtun nationality. He graduated from Habibiya Lycee in 1964, and completed his higher education at the Medical Faculty of Kabul University in 1975.

In 1965, Comrade Najibullah gained PDPA membership and was imprisoned twice because of his active participation in the revolutionary struggle against the feudal and bureaucratic regime.

Ever since the beginning of the April Revolution, Comrade Najibullah has been carrying out productive work for (?stabilization) and consolidation of national sovereignty, and progressive socioeconomic transformation.

In 1978 Comrade Najibullah was engaged in diplomatic duties. In 1979, as an experience party worker, he was appointed general head of the State Information Service [KHAD], by the PDPA Central Committee.

Comrade Najibullah has the military rank of major general and because of worthy services he was honored and received state medals.

Since 1977 Comrade Najibullah has been a member of the PDPA Central Committee and since 1981 he has been a member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo. Comrade Najibullah is member of the DRA Revolutionary Council. He was appointed secretary of the PDPA Central Committee by the 16th Plenum of the PDPA Central Committee. At the 18th PDPA Central Committee Plenum, Comrade Najibullah was elected general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee.

Rebel Leader Expects Increased Military Action

BK050908 Hong Kong AFP in English 0856 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] Islamabad, May 5 (AFP) — The resignation by Babrak Karmal as secretary-general of the Afghan Communist Party does not reflect a change in the Soviet Union's policy there, a guerrilla leader said here Monday. Mr. Karmal, who remains Afghan president, stepped down Sunday as head of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, and was succeeded by Muhammad Najibullah, formerly head of the secret police.

Burhanuddin Rabbani, spokesman here of the largest coalition of guerrillas movements, commenting on the news, said: "It is just changing one Soviet pawn for another. There is no real change." He added: "This kind of change is natural in a regime of puppets. They name somebody for a certain time and then they throw him away as a waste commodity." Mr. Rabbani is the leader of the Jamiyat-e Eslami movement, one of the largest of seven components in the guerrilla coalition of which he is also the spokesman. "As long as Soviet forces are in Afghanistan, it hardly matters who is in or out," he said.

In a statement he read at a press conference, he considered that the choice of Mr. Najibullah meant an increase of military action against the guerrillas, because the new secretary-general is "young, active and even efficient up to a point."

He rejected the theory that Mr. Karmal was in political disgrace, pointing out that if this were the case, his successor would have been drawn from the rival Khalq faction, opposed to Mr. Karmal's Parcham (flag) faction, which are both members of the ruling party. "Najibullah is like a son to Karmal, and is very loyal to him and to the Soviets," he said.

Mr. Rabbani said that he believed Mr. Karmal's resignation from the post of secretary-general was mainly due to "serious illness, probably leukemia."

Western diplomat sources in Islamabad said Mr. Najibullah was "very pro-Moscow" and agreed that Mr. Karmal probably stepped down for health reasons.

Further Reportage on Upcoming Parliamentary Elections

Regulation Bans Anti-Election Activity

BK031608 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 May 86

[Text] A martial law regulation has been issued prohibiting anti-election propaganda and activities. Under the regulation, no newspaper or document shall print, publish, or contain any news or views against the holding of elections to parliament or prejudicial to such election.

No person shall also publish, distribute, or display any leaflet, placard or poster against the holding of elections to parliament or propagate by any means any opinion against the holding of such elections. No person shall act in any manner which will directly or indirectly hamper or likely to hamper holding of elections to parliament. Whoever contravenes the provisions of this regulation shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to 7 years.

Election Commission Gives Details

BK031627 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 May 86

[Text] There will be a ban on all public meetings and processions for a period of 48 hours throughout the country from the midnight following Monday [5 May] to the midnight following Wednesday for smooth holding of Jatiya Sangsad [Parliament] elections.

In a press release in Dhaka today the Election Commission said no person shall convene, hold or attend any public meeting, and no person shall promote or join in any procession within the area of any constituency where elections to Jatiya Sangsad will be held. Any person contravening the ban shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment up to 6 months or with fine up to 1,000 taka or with both under the representation of the people order 1972.

Police, Demonstrators Clash

BK031657 Hong Kong AFP in English 1650 GMT 3 May 86

[Text] Dhaka, May 3 (AFP) — Police baton-charged anti-election demonstrators here Saturday and arrested 31 people trying to hold a rally, eyewitnesses and police said. The rally was called by the Bangladesh National Party (BNP) and its allies in the seven-party alliance opposing Wednesday's parliamentary polls to be held under martial law.

Groups of demonstrators shouting anti-election slogans had tried to assemble at Baitul Mukarram Square in the city centre in defiance of a martial law ban on anti-election activities, police said.

According to eyewitness militant demonstrators in small groups threw stones at the police who resorted to baton-charges. Firecrackers were thrown during a nearly two and a half hour battle between police and demonstrators.

Earlier BNP sources had claimed that anti-election opposition leader Begum Khaleda Zia, whose whereabouts remain a mystery, amid conflicting reports of her arrest or that she is in hiding, might take part in the attempted rally. But neither Mrs. Zia nor any senior leaders of the BNP or the seven-party alliance were seen, police and eyewitnesses said. However, BNP sources said Shah Alam, treasurer of the party, was among those arrested.

Meanwhile, the government Saturday tightened measures against anti-election activities by issuing a martial law regulation banning all anti-election demonstrations. The regulation issued by the President and chief martial law administrator, Hussain Mohammad Ershad, provides for seven years imprisonment for printing or publishing any news or views against the election as well as for organising or participating in any meetings or demonstrations opposing the polls.

The BNP and its allies have called for a boycott of the polls which they said would not be free and fair under the martial law regime of President Ershad. But the Awami League, one of the country's largest political parties, together with at least seven allied groups have joined the ballot, reversing their earlier stand to boycott the polls. Also contesting the polls are the right-wing fundamentalist Jami'at-e Islami Party, besides the government backed National (Jatiyo) Party.

In all 1,527 candidates, from different political parties and including some individuals, are seeking election to the 300-seat parliament.

National polls in Bangladesh have been postponed three times in the past two years in the face of opposition boycott threats.

Dhaka University Demonstrators Arrested

BK040824 Hong Kong AFP in English 0819 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] Dhaka, May 4 (AFP) — Police baton-charged some 200 anti-election demonstrators as they assembled at Dhaka University Sunday, eyewitnesses said. Several firecrackers and stones were thrown at police who fired shots in the air and charged, the witnesses said.

Police threw stones at reporters and photographers to try to stop them covering the anti-election demonstration. Such demonstrations have been banned under martial law.

Parliamentary elections are to be held here Wednesday, the first time for seven years, but a seven-party alliance has called for a boycott. The alliance says free and honest elections cannot be held under the martial law regime of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

Opposition sources said up to 50 people were arrested on Saturday in a similar attempt to hold a demonstration in the city centre. Official confirmation of arrests is very rarely given by the authorities here.

Khaleda Zia's Whereabouts Unknown

BK030859 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 May 86

[Text] In Bangladesh, the whereabouts of the Nationalist Party leader, Begum Khaleda Zia, have been shrouded in mystery for the last 2 days. She was intercepted by the police on Wednesday night while returning to Dhaka after a meeting in Jamalpur.

According to the police, she was allowed to proceed to Dhaka in a jeep while some of her companions were detained, but she has not reached her residence so far. The Bangladesh Government has denied reports of her arrest. All India Radio Dhaka correspondent Prabhakar Mishra reports that the confusion has been confounded with Begum Zia's household experssin anxiety over her mysterious disappearance.

Khaleda Zia Reportedly Under House Arrest

BK050932 Hong Kong AFP in English 0924 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] Dhaka, May 5 (AFP) — Clashes between rival supporters left at least four dead and up to 200 injured in Bangladesh since Sunday in the run-up to Wednesday's general election, reports said Monday.

A top opposition leader, Begum Khaleda Zia, who heads a seven-party alliance and is spearheading a drive against the election being held under martial law, was put under house arrest Monday at her home in Dhaka's military cantonment, her son Tarek Rahman told reporters at the National Press Club.

Reports reaching here said widespread violence had erupted in several constituencies where bombs had been thrown and shots fired.

Press reports Monday said one person was killed Sunday in the southeastern Chittagong District when supporters of the government-backed Jatiyo (National) Party and an opposition candidate clashed. Several people were also reportedly injured in the same incident.

In the southwestern Khulna District, Jatiyo supporters clashed with opposition Awami League activists leaving one dead and scores injured, reports said. Two people reportedly were killed in Bagerhat, southwest Bangladesh and Narshingdi, near here. People were also reported injured in election violence at Narayanganj, Jessore, Meherpur, Bhola, and Faridpur districts.

Tarek Rahman, the 18-year-old eldest son of Begun Zia and Ziaur Rahman, who was assassinated as president in 1981, said Begum Zia's home had been cordoned off by security people and the telephone cut. The authorities have yet to deny or confirm the arrest. He said security people from the army, police and intelligence services had detained Begum Zia at her house as she tried to walk to a waiting car.

His mother had asked for "written orders" from the authorities. She was shown nothing but had been told "madame, you cannot come out of the house," her son said. She insisted he be allowed to leave and he drove straight to the Press Club.

Begum Zia made a dramatic public reappearance here Sunday after disappearing Wednesday. She said she had been arrested outside Dhaka and held until midday Sunday, but the government has denied she was arrested last week.

Anti-election activity has been banned by the regime of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

External Affairs Spokesman on Air Lanka Blast

BK031559 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 May 86

[Text] India has expressed deep shock and regret at the tragic loss of innocent lives in an explosion of an Air Lanka aircraft in Colombo today. The External Affairs Ministry spokesman said today that India shares the grief and sorrow of the government and people of Sri Lanka and the members of the families of the deceased. The spokesman said while the exact cause of the explosion is not yet known, India condemns it unequivocally in the even of its having resulted from a terrorist act.

The Indian delegation to Sri Lanka led by the minister of state for personnel, Mr P. Chidambaram, has expressed sympathies to the Sri Lanka Government.

Gandhi Telephones Jayewardene

BK041615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 May 86

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, telephoned the Sri Lankan president, Mr Jayewardene, this morning and conveyed the government of India's [words indistinct] shock and grief at the blast in the Air Lanka jet at Colombo.

Delegation to Sri Lanka Returns to Madras

BK041439 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 4 May 86

[Text] The Indian delegation to Sri Lanka led by the minister of state for personnel [and administrative reforms], Mr Chidambaram, arrived in Madras from Colombo this evening after a 6-day visit to the island. Speaking to newsmen before leaving for New Delhi, Mr Chidambaram said he will report to the prime minister the details of the new formulations given by the Sri Lankan authorities to find a solution to the ethnic problem. He said the delegation had useful discussions with President Jayewardene and other leaders on the problem.

Referring to the bomb blast on the Air Lanka plane in Colombo, he said the delegation was informed of the incident and it expressed deep regret and anguish. Answering questions, he said the team did not have any discussion on the clashes between the militant groups in Sri Lanka.

Further Reportage on Reaction to Temple Raid

Chief Minister Visits Golden Temple

BK020945 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 May 86

[Text] The Punjab chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, accompanied by his six cabinet colleagues, visited the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar this afternoon. Mr Barnala and his colleagues, along with a large number of Akali Dal leaders and Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak [Sikh temple management] committee officials, went round the parikrama [area surrounding the shrine] and paid obeisance at the temple's sanctorum. Tight security arrangements were made in and outside the complex. The curfew in the localities around the complex was in force when Mr Barnala visited the temple.

6 Killed in Amritsar

BK021605 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 May 86

[Text] In Punjab, six persons were killed and one injured in three different incidents of terrorist activity in Amritsar District last night. Five persons were killed when some suspected terrorists fired indiscriminately in the green market in Tarn Taran. One person was shot dead in a village near Majitha and one was injured in a village near Bhaikavan when gunmen fired at them.

Education, Agriculture Ministers Resign

BK021619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 May 86

[Text] In Punjab two senior members of the Barnala cabinet have resigned. They are the education minister, Mr Sukhjinder Singh and the agriculture minister, Mr Amrinder Singh. They announced their resignations at a news conference in Chandigarh this evening. However, they added that they will continue to be the members of the Akali Dal legislature party.

The former chief minister, Mr Parkash Singh Badal, and the former SGPC [Shiromanil Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee] chief, Mr Gurcharan Singh Tohra, who were also present at the press conference, announced their resignations from the working committee of the Akali Dal.

In a joint statement released to the press, the four leaders said that their resignations are in protest against the entry of police into Darbar Sahib [Golden Temple]. They, however, clarified that the political demand of the Akali Dal has always been the acceptance of the Anandpur Saheb resolutions and that they have always opposed Khalistan. They said that the Akali Dal has made many sacrifices for the independence of the country and the maintenance of national unity, integrity and communal harmony. They will always stand by it.

Meanwhile,the chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, has forwarded the resignations of the two ministers to the governor with recommendation to accept them. Talking to All India Radio Chandigarh correspondent, Mr Barnala said both the ministers attended the cabinet meeting yesterday in Chandigarh and fully endorsed the action of the state government to flush out terrorists, extremists, and anti-Panthic [anti-Sikh] forces from the Golden Temple complex. Mr Barnala described the resignations as an afterthought and harmful to the interest of the party, the state, and the nation.

Mr Barnala said during his visit to Amritsar today, he met the Akal Takht [highest seat of the Sikh religion] chief, Jathedar Kripal Singh; the head priest of the Golden Temple, Giani Sahib Singh; and the head priest of Akal Takht, Giani Pritam Singh. They fully endorsed the action taken by him to evict the anti-

Panthic forces from the Golden Temple complex. In a joint statement in Amritsar, they described it as an act which fulfilled the wish of Sikh Panth.

The Punjab chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, accompanied by his cabinet colleagues and a large number of MLA's [members of the legislative assembly] visited the Golden Temple in Amritsar today. Later, talking to newsmen the chief minister said that he has come to Darbar Saheb to offer a grateful prayers for the completion of task assigned to his government. The task assigned at the Sarbat Khalsa [Sikh religious congregation] at Anandpur Saheb in February was to clear the Golden Temple of terrorists and anti-national elements.

Mr Barnala said the action had to be taken after the methods of persuasion failed. He said the government is taking measures to ensure that such elements do not come back to the Golden Temple. He also said that the government is taking steps to apprehend the antisocial and anti-national elements in the state.

Sikh Leaders Criticize Resignations

BK031647 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 May 86

[Text] Prominent Sikh leaders belonging to various organizations all over the country have criticized Mr Prakash Singh Badal, Mr G.S. Tohra, and others in Punjab for what they called their betrayal of the Barnala government.

In a press release today, they said by their conduct these leaders have shown the rank opportunism and lust for power. They said Mr Badal and others have fallen into the trap of anti-national forces which have captured the Golden Temple through treachery, deceit, and violence.

The statement adds that the Barnala government has not only maintained the high traditions of Sikhism by flushing out the proclaimed offenders from the Golden Temple, but it has strictly complied with the gurmata [resolution] passed by Sarbat Khalsa [highest Sikh congregation] at Anandpur Saheb.

They appealed to the Sikh sangat [community] to stand solidly behind the Barnala government and defeat the forces of communalism and disintegration.

The signatories to the statement include the president, All India Rangreta Dal, Sant Baba Dara Singh; the president of the All India Baba Jiwan Singh Dal, Master Tara Singh Tikka; Bhai Keshav Singh of Bombay Sikh pratinidhi [representative] board; Mr Bhagwan Singh Gulati of Madhya Pradesh Kendriya Guru Singh Sabha [central Sikh association]; Mr Jaswant Singh Kalka, president Delhi Gurdwara Prabandhak [Sikh temple management] committee; Sardar Rattan Singh, president [of] Gurdwara Paunta Saheb; and president [of] Gurdwara Nanak Bata Saheb, Nainital, Mr Gurcharan Singh Roshan.

In another statement, the head priest of Takht Sri Patna Saheb [Sikh temple at Patna], Jathedar Bhai Man Singh, has also expressed similar sentiments.

More Resignations; Violence Continues

BK030309 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 May 86

[Text] The Punjab governor, Mr Sidhartha Shanker Ray, has accepted the resignations of two state ministers, Mr Surjinder Singh and Mr Amrinder Singh. They had submitted their resignations last evening in protest against the entry of police in the Golden Temple complex. Their portfolios will be held by the chief minister till alternative arrangements are made. According to UNITED NEWS of INDIA, the Akali Dal senior vice president, Mr Surjan Singh Thekedar, has also announced his resignation from the party post last night for the same reason.

In a joint statement in Amritsar yesterday, the Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religion] chief, Jathedar Kripal Singh; the head priest of the Golden Temple, Gian Saheb Singh; and the head priest of the Akal Takht, Giani Pritam Singh, said the action of the state government has fulfilled the wish of the Sikh Panth [religion].

Meanwhile, three persons were killed in two separate shooting incidents in the state last evening. Two of them were killed when two youths fired at them with stenguns in village Memachak near Dera Baba Nanek in Gurdaspur District. One person was shot dead by suspected terrorists in village Bats near Tarn Taran in Amritsar District.

An official spokesman said in Chandigarh that about 250 preventive arrests have been made in different parts of the state during the last 3 days. He said the arrests have been made to thwart any attempt of breach of peace in the state. The Punjab police have also arrested three extremists in Jullundur and recovered from them 3 revolvers, 1 sten gun, about 125 different cartridges, and 3 hand grenades.

Tourism Minister Resigns

BK031309 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 3 May 86

[Text] In Punjab the minister of state for tourism and health, Mr Sucha Singh Chotepur, has resigned. Talking to newsmen in Chandigarh today he said his resignation is in protest against the entry of police into the Golden Temple complex. Mr Chotepur has also resigned from the working committee of Akali Dal. Another member of the Akali Dal working committee, Mr Talib Singh Sandhu, has also announced his resignation from the committee.

Four Akali Dal members of Parliament in a statement in New Delhi have criticized the Barnala government for sending the police into the Golden Temple complex.

Three of the four members have also resigned from the offices they were holding in the parliamentary group. The signatories are the deputy leader, Mr Charanjit Singh; the general secretary, Mr Mewa Singh Gill; chief whips, Mr Charanjit Singh Walia and Mr Sammindar Singh.

Major Parties Support Barnala

BK031615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 May 86

[Text] Four major political parties in Punjab have announced their support to the Barnala government to tide over the current crisis in the ministry following the resignation of some ministers. Agency reports from Chandigarh say a consensus to this effect was arrived at the meeting of the informal group of political leaders of these parties. The state governor, Mr Siddharta Shankar Ray, was also present. The political parties are: the Congress-I, CPI, CPI-M, and the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Barnala Urges Unity

BK040344 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 May 86

[Text] The Punjab chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, has appealed to Akali Dal legislators and other party leaders not to play into the hands of those whose only aim is to weaken the party. In a statement in Chandigarh this morning, he said such elements are only trying to help the forces indulging in terrorist, anti-national and anti-Panthic [anti-Sikh] activities. Mr Barnala said that the unity in the party has become all the more important at this juncture when the Akali Dal is engaged in assertively meeting the challenge posed by forces of destabilization.

The Punjab governor, Mr Siddharta Shankar Ray, has accepted the resignation of the minister of state for tourism, Mr Sucha Singh Chotepur. The resignation was accepted last night following the recommendation of the chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala. Mr Chotepur has resigned in protest against the police entry into the Golden Temple complex.

As already reported, all major political parties in Punjab have offered full support to the Barnala government, both in and outside the assembly. A consensus to this effect was reached at a meeting of informal groups of senior leaders of these political parties held in Chandigarh last evening. Those who attended the meeting are the Congress-I president, Mr Beant Singh; its general secretary, Mr Gurdip Singh; Bharatiya Janata Party general secretary, Mr (Cheta Bilasi); secretary of CPI, Mr Avtar Singh Malhotra; and Akali Dal general secretary, Mr Manjit Singh Khera. The meeting fully endorsed the action taken by the Punjab government against the secessionist and anti-national elements who had intruded into the Golden Temple complex.

In Punjab, one person was shot dead yesterday by two scooter borne suspected terrorists near village Wana in Faridkot District. The victim was traveling on a scooter when he was attacked.

Dissidents Issue Statement

BK041635 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 May 86

[Text] In Chandigarh the former Punjab chief minister, Mr Prakash Singh Badal, today released to the press a statement signed by 29 Akali Dal legislators criticizing the Barnala government for sending the police into the Golden Temple complex. The statement described the action as a blot on the glorious history of the party. The signatories include the ministers who recently resigned their posts and the former minister, Mr Balwinder Singh Bunder.

In reply to a question, Mr Badal said these legislators have only expressed their sentiments and it does amount to a revolt in the party. One party legislator, Mr Purshottam Singh, has denied having signed the statement. He told newsmen at the chief minister's residence this evening that he fully supported Mr Barnala.

Talking to newsmen this evening, the chief minister said any effort to divide the Akali Dal should be resisted. He reiterated that the action to oust terrorists, anti-national elements and anti-Panthic [anti-Sikh] elements from the Golden Temple was taken under the directive given to him by the Sarbat Khalsa [highest Sikh congregation] held at Anandpur Saheb. He said that the action had the full approval of the cabinet, the Akali Dal legislature party and working committee and the Sikh community. He regretted that some party leaders have gone to the press instead of putting their viewpoints before the party. In reply to a question, Mr Barnala did not rule out the possibility of disciplinary action against such partymen. The chief minister claimed that at least 54 Akali legislators have fully supported the police action. He claimed that he has sufficient support inthe Akali Dal legislature party.

The state Congress-I chief, Mr Beant Singh, has criticized the resignation of some Akali leaders in protest against the police action. Addressing a news conference in Bhatinda today, he said this would only help anti-national forces and foreign elements to destabilize the country. Supporting the police action to flush out the terrorists, Mr Beant Singh said hardened criminals had declared the establishment of so-called Khalistan and the state government did what any government would have done under such circumstances. He extended his party's full support to the Barnala government in fighting secessionist and communal forces.

Punjab Cabinet To Be Expanded

BK050305 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] The Akali ministry in Punjab is being expanded tomorrow. The chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, told the All India Radio correspondent, P.J.S. Trehan, this morning that the expansion will be carried out in two or three phases beginning tomorrow. Our correspondent points out that the chief minister had hinted at the expansion of his ministry a number of times earlier, but the recent resignation of three ministers seems to have hastened the process. Before the resignations, Mr Barnala's cabinet had 10 ministers.

Meanwhile, seven persons, including a suspected terrorist, were shot dead and three injured in four separate incidents of terrorist activities since last evening in the state. Four persons, including a farmer and two sons of a family, were shot dead when suspected terrorists fired at them in village Khujiwal near Batala in Gurdaspur District. The victims were in the fields when they were

attacked. One person was killed in village Lalpura and another in village Mamori, both in Tarn Taran in Amritsar District, when five car-borne terrorists shot at them.

In the third incident, two persons were injured when three jeep-borne terrorists opened fire at a village near Zira in Ferozepore District.

In the fourth incident in Jullundur, a terrorist was killed in an exchange of fire with the police in the cantonment area.

The terrorist had earlier shot and injured a person near a bus station.

Allegations of Funding Pakistani Party Rejected

BK021358 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 2 May 86

[Text] The spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today that India has duly noted allegations reported to have been made by the works minister of Pakistan [title as heard], Mr Saifullah Khan, that India is providing funds to the Pakistani People's Party.

The spokesman said in response to a query that we are surprised that a responsible minister of Pakistan Government should have made such allegations which are totally baseless.

President on Islamic, Parliamentary Systems

BK291000 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 28 Apr 86

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has declared that neither the people nor the government will allow damage to the ideological frontiers of the country. Addressing a gathering at Mehsinabad, about a 100 km from Bahawalpur today, he said Pakistan is an ideological state and it will sustain on this foundation. He said the country was passing through a critical phase as some political elements were saying that Islam was not the sole objective of the creation of Pakistan.

The president said over the past 9 years the government had made all-out efforts to enforce and strengthen Islamic system in the country. A democratic government had been set up and after lifting of martial law, political activities had been restored, fundamental rights revived, and emergency withdrawn. A foundation of Islamic democratic system in the country had been laid and we had elections. The first and important step in the chain was the revival of the local body system and holding elections under it twice. The destiny of the nation lay in the hands of the elected representatives in the senate and national and provincial assemblies. He asked the people to let the present elected government complete its tenure up to 1990 when they would be free to elect a change or new representatives in the elections.

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq urged the people to shun politics of jalsa and jaloos [rallies and processions] and work with dedication for the development of the country. He said the Islamic system was being enforced gradually.

Referring to local problems, the president said eradication of water logging and salinity in Liaqatpur area have been included in the [name indistinct] project which was being carried out by the federal government. Other local problems are also being tackled at the federal and provincial level. The president asked the federal planning minister, Dr Mahbubul Haq, to review the problems which fall under the purview of the federal government and those under the provincial governments so that these may be solved effectively.

Later, talking to newsmen at Multan airport, the president said the democratic system in the country was functioning very successfully at present and midterm elections could not be held on the demand of some street demonstrations. He said in a parliamentary form of government the prime minister had the sole authority to ask for early elections if he so desired. The president said the Constitution provides for the holding of elections after 5 years. However, the prime minster could present himself before the people in fresh elections a short time before the end of the tenure of parliament. He said since it was an elected government it could serve as a ladder for achieving the goal of bringing about Islamic system through evolutionary and gradual process. He was sure it would succeed in its efforts.

He emphasized the need for safeguarding the integrity and solidarity of the country which is a citadel of Islam. A lot of work had been done toward the enforcement of Islamic system and more steps would be taken after passing of the ninth amendment bill which would be introduced in the National Assembly and Senate soon.

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said under the parliamentary system political parties were essential, but they could not play their role unless they inculcate the spirit of democracy in themselves. The unregistered political parties could take part in political activities but they could not take part in the elections. He said the national press should evaluate and assess the real measure of democracy in the country. There was no martial law and no emergency but a genuine democratic order in evidence in Pakistan.

In reply to a question the president said Pakistan's relations with Libya were very good and it is our policy to improve our relations including those with our neighbors on the basis of equality and dignity.

In reply to another question the president said negotiations were being held with France for the supply of a nuclear reprocessing plant as promised by it or to pay compensation.

The federal ministers Mr Mohammad Khaqan Abbasi and Dr Mahbubul Haq were also present on the occasion. Replying to a question the minister for planning and development said efforts would be made in the new budget to bring down the cost of living in the country. He said our growth rate has been about 7 percent and the rate of inflation is less than that of last year.

Yaqub Khan Leaves for Geneva, Afghanistan Talks

BK040640 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 4 May 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan left Islamabad for Geneva this morning to lead the Pakistani delegation at the seventh round of indirect talks on Afghanistan beginning tomorrow.

Talking to newsmen at the airport, he said that Pakistan will participate in the talks with the clear and sincere determination to see a comprehensive and mutually acceptable political settlement of the Afghanistan issue as early as possible. The fact that we will be discussing the fourth instrument, in which a firm assurance will be enshrined relating to an appropriate and reasonable timetable for a Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, is a positive step. Despite this, the difficulties and complications in the discussions cannot be taken lightly, he added. Pakistan is participating in the present round of talks with a constructive and sincere attitude. He said: Although there are difficult stages, the progress achieved so far, I think, helps in fostering an optimism that the remaining obstacles will also be overcome.

Stops Over in Moscow

BK041611 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 May 86

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan left Islamabad for Geneva today to lead the Pakistani delegation at the seventh round of indirect talks on Afghanistan beginning tomor-

row. Talking to newsmen at the airport prior to his departure, he said that Pakistan will participate in the talks with a positive attitude and the determination to see a comprehensive and mutually acceptable settlement of the issue as early as possible.

Answering a question relating to the timetable for Soviet withdrawal, the foreign minister said Pakistan's point of view in this regard is that the troop withdrawal should be within months, not years. He said that during the present round of talks, the entire draft will be reviewed.

The foreign minister made a 90-minute stopover at the Moscow airport on his way to Geneva this afternoon. A senior official of the CPSU Central Committee, Georgiy Korniyenko, and Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Komplektov met the foreign minister at the airport. Other officials of the Soviet Foreign Ministry and Pakistani Ambassador to Moscow Shahid Amin were also present on the occasion. Later, the foreign minister held talks with them during luncheon.

Justice Minister Examines Political Activities

BK021618 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 May 86

[Text] Talking to newsmen in Lahore today, federal Minister for Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Iqbal Ahmad Khan said political parties have been given the freedom to continue their political activities within the jurisdiction of the law. Answering a question, he said there is no restriction on political activities, but political parties are required to register themselves in order to be able to contest elections. The parties who fail to register will be barred from contesting future elections.

The justice minister said it is the duty of the political parties and the nation to see what purpose the political activities of a party serve when it is legally disqualified from participating in elections. All political activities are always directed toward an end, to work peacefully within the jurisdiction of the law and to take part in elections with individual programs, and to implement such programs in the event of success in elections. In reply to a question, the justice minister said the political parties act does not violate fundamental rights in any way.

BBC on Rift in Opposition Alliance

BK031325 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 3 May 86

[From the "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] The Pakistani opposition leader, Miss Benazir Bhutto, is visiting the country's biggest city, Karachi, today — her first visit to her home province since she returned from exile about 3 weeks ago. As Miss Bhutto continues her tour of the country, serious disagreements have appeared within the opposition alliance of which her People's Party is the main member. This report is from Alex Brodie in Islamabad:

[Begin recording] A May Day rally in the frontier city Peshawar held by the 5-year-old opposition alliance, the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy, degenerated into fighting — largely between supporters of Miss Bhutto's People's Party and those of the National Democratic Party, which is strong in the frontier.

After a disagreement over the issue of provincial nationalism following a speaker's call for North-West Frontier Province to be renamed Pashtunistan after the people who live there, People's Party supporters in a minority were chased from the meeting. There was fighting. People's Party flags were burned.

Tension beoween the allies in the anti-Zia opposition alliance there has always been, but for it to break out into violence at a joint rally must, as a local newspaper commented, gladden the hearts of the opposition's enemies. Already one component party of the opposition alliance has started campaigning against Bhuttoism, and its leader, retired Air Marshal Asghar Khan, is reported to have met General Zia and Prime Minister Junejo in Islamabad. [end recording].

Further Reportage on Italian Under Secretary's Visit

Meets Yaqub Khan

BK011615 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 May 86

[Text] Italy's Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs Bruno Corti called on Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan in Islamabad today. They reviewed the regional situation and expressed satisfaction at the current state of relations between the two countries. They also exchanged views on possibilities of increasing bilateral cooperation in the economic and technical fields.

Talking to newsmen on his arrival in Islamabad from Quetta today, the Italian under secretary for foreign affairs said his government thinks highly of diplomatic efforts by Pakistan for a peaceful political settlement of the Afghanistan problem and his country fully supports Pakistan's stand on Afghanistan. It also views with great respect assistance provided by Pakistan to Afghan refugees. He described as excellent the relations between Pakistan and Italy in economic, political, and other fields.

In reply to a question, he said Italy has been providing avenues to Pakistan for the transfor of modern technology. The Italian under secretary for foreign affairs said he would discuss with Pakistani authorities ways to strengthen the existing cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

Calls on President

BK040222 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 3 May 86

[Text] The visiting deputy foreign minister of Italy, Mr Bruno Corti, called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi this evening. He conveyed to him special greetings and message of good wishes from the Italian president. He also discussed regional and bilateral matters with the president. The president

expressed satisfaction on the state of bilateral relations between the two countries.

The Italian deputy foreign minister showed special interest for cooperation in the field of telecommunications. He commended the (?efforts) of Pakistan in looking after a large number of Afghan refugees and lauded Pakistan's principled stand on the Afghanistan issue. He also praised the president's personal efforts for normalization of relations with India and fostering peace in the region. Mr Bruno Corti congratulated the president for the restoration of democratic institutions in Pakistan.

Khunjerab Pass Link to PRC Inaugurated 1 May

BK011115 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 1 May 86

[Text] The 15,000-feet high Khunjerab Pass linking the northern areas of Pakistan with Xinjiang Province of China was formally opened today to traffic for third countries' nationals. The opening of the pass coincides with the beginning of the tourist season in the northern areas. The federal minister for Kashmir affairs and northern areas, Syed Qasim Shah, led the Pakistan delegation at the inaugural ceremony.

Now described as the eighth wonder of the world, Khunjerab Pass is the terminal of the 800 km Karakoram highway which passes through some of world's most scenic places and rugged terrain. It lies in a region where three of the highest mountain ranges — Himalayas, Karakoram, and Hindu Kush — meet. The highway also passes through some of the largest glaciers of the world outside the polar region.

Pakistan and China have already set up checkposts on their sides which customs, immigration, and foreign exchange counters to facilitate smooth tourist traffic. The route will operate from May to October every year and during the rest of the period for mail and trade purposes.

Radio Pakistan's representative says the opening of the Khunjerab Pass for the nationals of third countries will add yet another dimension to the existing exemplary Pak-Sino relations with the increased volume of tourist traffic, barter trade, and foreign exchange earnings.

The Karakoram highway has been described by experts as marvel of engineering. Nearly 25,000 experts, engineers, and workers of Pakistan Army and China completed it in more than a decade.

SRI LANKA

Reportage on Bombing of Air Lanka Plane

LTTE Spokesman Denies Involvement

BK030900 Hong Kong AFP in English 0852 GMT 3 May 86

[Text] Madras, India, May 3 (AFP) — A top Tamil separatist group said Saturday that it had no hand in the bomb explosion aboard a Sri Lankan aircraft at Colombo airport which reportedly killed 20 people.

"We are categorically denying any involvement," a spokesman for the Liberation Tiger of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE here.

But three other militant Tamil groups said they were awaiting reports from their "field staff" to know if their guerrillas were behind the explosion at Colombo's Katunayake Airport.

The groups are the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization (TELO), Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students (EROS) and the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF).

"We have no information, and we are not in a position to say if our men were involved," a TELO spokesman said.

"Well, we can tell you that the incident has surprised us, but it is too early to say who did it.... we are checking," an EROS spokesman said. The EPRLF spokesman had a similar reaction.

Meanwhile, the aircraft of the French airline UTA, which was diverted here from Colombo, left for Singapore Saturday after a brief stay, a spokesman for the Madras airport said. The plane was on a scheduled Muscat-Colombo-Singapore run.

'Marxist Terrorists' Responsible

BK031105 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 May 86

[Excerpt] Twenty passengers are reported dead and 41 wounded when a time bomb exploded in the tail end of an Air Lanka Tristar at the Colombo airport, Katunayake, this morning. The incident occurred at 10 minutes past 0900 in the aircraft bound for Male. It arrived in Colombo via London, Zurich, and Dubayy. The passengers were boarding the aircraft and some of them had already taken their seats when the rear of the plane was blown up by the bomb planted by Marxist-oriented separatist terrorists.

LANKA PUWATH reported that the Colombo airport, which was closed, has now been reopened. The defense secretary, General Sepala Attygalle; the head of the joint operations command, Lieutenant General Cyril Ranatunga; and Inspector General of Police Cyril Herath were conducting on-the-spot investigations at the airport. The chairman, Air Lanka Captain (Hatita Wickremanayake), joined them at the site. A number of planes due to land at Colombo were diverted to Madras.

AFP: LTTE Separatists Planted Bomb

BK031542 Hong Kong AFP in English 1530 GMT 3 May 86

[Text] Colombo, May 3 (AFP) — A hardline Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), is believed to be responsible for a bomb blast aboard an Air Lanka plane at the international airport here Saturday which killed 20 people, authoritative sources said.

A radio message between an LTTE member in southern India and a colleague in Jaffna, Sri Lanka's northern capital, intercepted by intelligence agencies here, indicates that the LTTE planted the bomb, the sources told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. The LTTE man in India reportedly asked his colleague in Jaffna whether he knew anything of the attack and who had done it, the sources said. The LTTE colleague in Jaffna replied that "that is the work of our samba," referring to one of their men here, the sources said.

(In Madras, southern India, a spokesman for the LTTE earlier Saturday had denied any involvement in the bombing).

The government earlier accused the LTTE of trying to wreck an Indian initiative to find a negotiating basis for resumed discussions between the government and the southern India-based Tamil separatist groups campaigning for a separate Tamil state in Sri Lanka's north and east.

Further on LTTE's Claim

BK041629 Hong Kong AFP in English 1609 GMT 4 May 86

[Excerpt] Colombo, May 4 (AFP) — A Tamil separatist guerrilla group claimed responsibility on Sunday for Saturday's bomb blast aboard an airliner at Colombo International Airport that reportedlykilled 22 people, mostly foreigners.

(In the southern Indian city of Madras, members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) told reporters their group had planted the bomb that ripped through the Air Lanka Lockheed Tristar as passengers were boarding the plane for a flight to Male in the Maldives.)

A death toll of 22 reported by Sri Lanka's stae radio on Sunday appeared to include a missing person that the station said was presumed dead, observers here said. Foreign Ministry sources said on Saturday 21 people, including 20 foreigners, had been killed, and 23 injured, and that one person was missing.

The LTTE claim appeared to back up evidence found by policemen and officials sifting through the wreckage of the plane. Official sources said they had found several cloth caps bearing the insignia of the Black Tigers, a hitherto unknown group that sources said was believed to be either an LTTE commando wing or breakaway group. It is not known how the caps got aboard the plane, the official sources said.

(In Madras on Saturday an LTTE spokesman, A.S. Blasingam, denied responsibility for the blast, but on Sunday other members of the group claimed the LTTE was indeed responsible. They said

there had been a lack of communication between the LTTE headquarters in Madras and its guerrillas in Sri Lanka.)

Several groups of militant members of Sri Lanka's Tamil minority are fighting a guerrilla war to set up an independent state in the north and east of the country.

Jayewardene Urges India To Help Wipe Out Terrorism

BK021145 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 2 May 86

[Text] President J.R. Jayewardene has called upon India to help wipe out terrorism in Sri Lanka by closing the terrorist bases in the country. Addressing at the UNP's [United National Party] May Day rally yesterday, the president said that India as a big democracy had a duty to help another democratic country to wipe out terrorism. He said let us join hands together to wipe out terrorism not only from our two countries but from the whole of Asia.

Further Reportage on Joint Talks With India on Tamils

Indian Delegation Extends Stay

BK021149 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 2 May 86

[Text] The visiting Indian delegation, which continued its hectic rounds of talks with government and opposition leaders, has extended its stay till Sunday [4 May]. The delegation headed by minister of state P. Chidambaram opened the day yesterday with a second meeting with the former TULF MP (Nilam Tiruchalvam). This was followed by an hour long meeting with opposition leader Anura Bandaranaike. Mr Bandaranaike had also been present when the delegation met the SLFP leader, Mrs Bandaranaike, on Wednesday night. An SLFP spokesman said the Indians had urged the SLFP to set the ethnic problem above party politics and help to work out a solution. He said Mrs Bandaranaike had indicated that the SLFP would not stand in the way of any reasonable solution and that she would consult her party.

The delegation had a 90 minute meeting with Land Minister Gamini Dissanayake when land settlement was discussed in depth. A second meeting with Mr Dissanayake was fixed for today. Wednesday's discussion with National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali focussed on law and order. At an evening meeting with Dr H.W. Jayewardene Q.C. [Queen's Counsel], the mission went deeper into the question of the structure of the unit of devolution and the powers to be devolved.

Final Round of Talks

BK040326 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 May 86

[Text] The visiting Indian delegation had a final round of talks with President Jayewardene at Colombo last night on the ethnic issue. The talks lasted about 2 hours. They also continued the discussion during the dinner hosted in their honor by the Sri Lankan president. Earlier, the Indian delegation also had extensive discussions with the national security minister, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, for about 3 hours. They also met the lands development minister, Mr Gamini Dissanayake.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan Government has blamed the Tamil militant groups for the blast of the Air Lanka plane yesterday. In a communique, the National Security Ministry said that it suspects that the Eelam terrorist organization was responsible for the explosion. A team of high-level officials have already started the investigation. Air Force official said black uniforms of the terrorist organization identified as Black Tigers bearing their red insignia were found among the cargo of the aircraft. Our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, reports that investigators suspect that the device which caused the explosion was in the consignment (?meant) for the Maldives. Meanwhile, the death toll in the explosion has risen to 22. Official sources in Colombo said that 18 of the dead were French, German, British and Japanese tourists. Three of the dead were Sri Lankans.

21 Killed in Clashes Between Rival Tamil Groups

BK030317 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 May 86

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 21 more Tamil militants of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization [TELO] are reported killed in clashes with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] yesterday. The clashes between the rival militants groups are continuing for the past 4 days. Reports from Colombo say that the LTTE claimed victory over its rival and its gunmen marched through the streets of Jaffna declaring that they have won the fighting with the TELO. The LTTE is also said to have launched a house-to-house search for the TELO leader, Mr Mohan Sri Sabaratnam, whose whereabouts are not known. Meanwhile, the national security minister, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, said that the LTTE, led by Mr Prabhakaran, has launched the offensive this week in a bid to disrupt the current peace talks.

300 Reportedly Killed in 3 Days

BK031119 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 May 86

[Text] According to a report from LANKA PUWATH the open warfare between two rival terrorist groups in Jaffna over the past 3 days has resulted in the death of 300 persons, 40 of them innocent civilians who were caught in the cross fire. The fighting in the Jaffna District has now spread to Kilinochchi and Vavuniya.

According to an intelligence report, while the Libaration Tigers of Tamil Eelam leader, Prabhakaran, has sent a contract for the killing of Sri Lankan Sabaratnam — the leader of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization, Sabaratnam himself has sent on the contract for the killing of Prabhakaran who is in India. The same report also states that Sabaratnam has told Prabhakaran to return to Sri Lanka to have an open fight in cowboy style to a finish.

Radio Rabat Distorts De Cuellar Statement on War

LD030824 Tehran IRNA in English 0800 GMT 3 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 3, IRNA — A source close to the U.N. Secretary general Javier Perez de Cuellar told the Islamic Republic of Iran's representative to the U.N. that Morocco's Radio Rabat had distorted De Cuellar's statements on Iraq-Iran war.

He added that in an interview a month ago the U.N. secretary general announced that his 8-point plan had been rejected by the Islamic Republic of Iran since Iraq had called for a ceasefire to discuss the plan. The radio, distorting the interview, had claimed that direct negotiations were underway between Iran and Iraq on De Cuellar's 8-article plan.

Following fatal blows Iraqi Army received in the Al-Faw Peninsula and simultaneously with the massive dispatch of Islamic forces to war fronts, reactionary supporters of Iraq are spreading these rumours to strengthen the morale of the Iraqi ruler and his forces.

Further on Majlis Speaker's Friday Prayers Sermons

GF021728 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 2 May 86

[Arabic Friday sermon delivered by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Tehran Friday imam ad interim, Majlis speaker, and the imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council at Tehran University on 2 May — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praise be to God. Peace be upon God's prophet, upon his scion, and upon God's pious worshippers. The Muslim world is passing through a bitter and bleak period. Following the Islamic awakening in the aftermath of the triumph of Islam in Iran, and following the advocation of Islam as a message that saves mankind from its present dilemma, the world forces of infidelity began to use enormous forces to combat Islam, crush Islamic awakenings, weaken Muslim states, and sow discord and disarray among Muslims.

In such circumstances, the Islamic Republic of Iran is a center of and a springboard for the Islamic movement. Consequently, it has become the primary target for the malicious plots of the arrogant powers. Israel and the 'Aflaqi Ba'thist Party of Iraq are among the most important tools of the front of infidelity used in achieving its objectives. In the Arab world the forces of infidelity created circumstances forcing the leaders of the Arab states to face numerous problems in convening a summit to discuss certain issues. Even if the summit should be held, differences will prevent an understanding and an agreement on some objective issues.

In circumstances in which Libya is being subjected to a terrible and fierce transgression by the U.S. giant, some Arab states are getting closer to the West and, as Bush claims, agreed to the U.S. aggression before it took place. At the same time, relations between a number of Arab states and the usurper and expansionist Israel are growing daily, and consequently the sensitivity of Muslims toward the Palestinian question is diminished. Egypt and Jordan lead this traitorus trend and, regrettably, they have been able to drag behind them the leaders of the Palestinian resistance and split the ranks of the resistance. In addition to its abominable crime in kindling the war the Iraqi Ba'th Party is accompanying that lot in their dirty policy.

The strength of Arab Middle East states used to lie in the oil and financial capabilities of these states. However, regrettably and as a result of the betrayal of some reactionary oil-producing Arab countries, oil prices slumped and this strength became a weak point. Moreover, the repressive governments that have been imposed on their peoples have removed the Muslim masses from the arena and, consequently, the people view these regrettable events with great indifference.

In circumstances in which our enemies agree on a dirty and diabolical matter such as the aggression against the Palestinian people and kindling a war against Islamic Iran, the Arab and Muslim countries are unable to agree and cooperate on such basic issues as fighting the usurper Israel, repulsing U.S. aggression, punishing the Iraqi Ba'th Party which kindled the unjust war, and safeguarding the economic interests of the peoples of the area.

I am propounding the pains and wounds afflicting the Muslim world in the hope that such a discussion will help in making positive and constructive decisions.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. "We have given you abundance; so pray to your Lord and sacrifice. He who hates you is the one who is cut off." [Koranic verses] Peace and God's mercy be upon you.

Majlis Speaker on Arms Purchases 'Smear Campaign'

LD021517 Tehran IRNA in English 1455 GMT 2 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 2, IRNA — The Majlis (parliament) speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Thursday that opposition to the revolution of Iran was because of its influential Islamic culture which provides a sound blue-print for charting the course of its geo-political policies.

The Majlis speaker was speaking to Minister of Ershad Eslami (Islamic Guidance) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami and the Islamic Republic's cultural attaches to foreign countries, currently here on a homecoming visit. He said that global powers were well aware that once countries were stripped of their cultural identity they cease to pose any serious threat to them.

Rafsanjani termed U.S. allegations of Iranian arms purchases from that country as 'pure fabrications'. He said arrogant powers engaged in such smear campaigns against Iran because they felt the Islamic Republic of Iran had become a source on which those people struggling for freedom in the world could rely and furthermore because they want to undermine its impeccable record of anti-imperialistic struggle.

The Majlis speaker said "if one day Iran allows the West German Beider Meinhof or Japanese Red Brigades to open bureaus in

Tehran, however it has never allowed this, global powers will immediately accuse Iran of supporting terrorism." But, he said, some foreign governments which have given shelter to Iranian monarchist and counter-revolutionary groups in Paris and elsewhere throughout the world have never regarded themselves as supporters of terrorism.

On alleged practice of torture in Iran, Rafsanjani said, "I confidently announce that prisons in Iran are the most comfortable ones throughout the world." He said that unlike political prisoners in foreign countries Iranian political prisoners are allowed furloughs to go home and see their families. In conclusion the Majlis speaker gave some guidelines to the Iranian cultural attaches.

Tehran Daily Accuses Tokyo Summit of Conspiracy

GF041529 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1200 GMT 4 May 86

[From the Press Review]

[Text] The 3-day session of Western bloc industrialized nations — the United States, Great Britain, France, Italy, Canada, West Germany, and Japan — is being inaugurated in Tokyo today under circumstances in which the agenda has never been so overtly opposed to the [interests of] developing countries. The newspaper *JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI* today publishes an editorial on this session entitled "The Session of the Industrialized Nations for the Distribution of the Oil Income", which we will now hear:

The newspaper writes: These seven industrialized nations have envisaged greater vistas to poach the God-given resources of OPEC members which have — due to the premeditated reduction of oil prices in a manner previously unsurpassed — been placed at the disposal of the world-devourers. They intend to discuss the ways and means to implement the "Marshall Plan" for the oil Croesuses and, by selecting the most advantageous and least expensive modus operandi, they wish to achieve their preplanned objective of diminishing the problems of industrialized nations by increasing the indebtedness and the dependence of developing nations.

This is the plot, which, in light of the approaching date of this session and the proclaimed results of the last OPEC session, can be incontrovertibly interpreted as a plot hatched by the seven industrialized nations against the OPEC members. It is worth noting that what is about to transpire will, in fact, be the result of a plot of the industrialized nations and their pawns within OPEC. The cliques within OPEC which have agreed to fill the coffers of the world-devourers by stabbing OPEC in the back have committed the highest treason against their own countries by preparing the ground for the conspiracy being formulated by the Western bloc industrialized countries. The heads of the countries, colluding with the world-devourers within OPEC, should explain to their tyrannized and deprived people what right they have to take such selfish decisions to deplete their resources and fill the pockets of their enemies. These nations are incensed at the great treachery being perpetrated against them; at the pusillanimous rulers who have wielded the gavel for the auction of their wealth; and at the oil-plunderers, who, with all of their shamelessness congregate to pillage this ill-gotten gain among themselves and seek new avenues to increase the dependence of the oil-rich countries upon them.

It is for this reason that the session of the seven industrialized nations is being convened with unparalleled security measures at the Akasaka Palace, the venue for the session; its environs are guarded by 80,000 policemen. Of course, when the seven heads of state assemble to assess better ways to pilfer and ravage nations, obviously they need 80,000 policemen to protect their lives. Definitely, 80,000 armed men are necessary to the loot hundreds of millions of dollars. Naturally, the Japanese Government should allocate a budget of $42 million to safeguard the lives of the participants of such a massive burglary. They are apprehensive about the furor of the nations being exploited in this manner and they are aware that they are always susceptible to reprisals.

The news agencies have expressed their views on the sidelines about the session of the seven industrialized nations of the Western bloc in Tokyo. They state that the participants of this caucus have conjured up the beginning of a bright economic outlook for the future of the Western industrialized nations. They are well aware that this bright economic panorama for the industrialized nations will mean the opening of a bleak economic period for countries whose lamp will be stolen by the industrialized nations. However, they should be aware that with another's lamp, they cannot illuminate their economic atmosphere for a prolonged period of time. They have been able to appropriate this lamp with the connivance of their accomplices in the oil-rich countries who have poised themselves on the seat of power in a despotic manner. Hence, they should await the day when the wronged nations rise up in revenge with growing perception and acumen and extract their ravaged wealth from the thoats of the predators. That day is not far away.

Another point worth mentioning in the context of the session of seven industrialized nations is the message by Chedli Klibi, the ICO secretary general [title as heard], to this conclave requesting a speedy end to the Iran-Iraq war. The usual contempt manifested by Chedli Klibi and the fact that he was instructed to extend his hand of mendicancy toward the United States and its allies aside, it would not be irrelevant to point out to him and to his mentors that it is not necessary to worry about the end to this war. The able Islamic combatants are determined, with their iron will and strong arms, to wipe out Saddam and terminate the war to the benefit of the two nations of Iran and Iraq. Thus the political-military equilibrium of the region would change in a manner leaving none of the world-devourers the power to interfere in the interests and advantages of the people.

Tehran Claims Iraq Involved in U.S. Raid on Libya

GF031404 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 3 May 86

[Text] While the progressive Arab and Islamic countries continue to condemn the U.S. military aggression against Libya, the government information media of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime are continuing their campaign against Libya.

News sources in London said that the Iraqi government cooperated with the United States in its attacks against the Libyan Muslim people by providing it with information about Libya. These sources added that the Iraqi regime managed through its spies to prepare maps on the sensitive areas in Libya and put these maps at the disposal of the CIA.

Foreign Ministry Reaffirms Position on Afghanistan

LD042037 Tehran IRNA in English 1813 GMT 4 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 4, IRNA — The Islamic Republic of Iran [words indistinct] it would not participate in talks which disregarded the role of Muslim people of Afghanistan. A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry who was commenting on the 7th round of Geneva talks on Afghanistan to start Monday, further stated that "we believe that the interests of the Muslim Afghan nation must be taken into consideration before everything and therefore we cannot approve of these talks through our presence."

He added that Iran has always demanded withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan and "it is natural that we will continue to welcome any development leading to their rapid withdrawal which would strip the U.S. of the pretext to interfere in the region."

The spokesman also said that the Islamic Republic was willing as a neighbor to see Afghanistan an independent, Islamic and non-aligned country and that its people find the opportunity to decide their favorite government themselves.

Velayati Briefs Khamene'i on Visit to Syria, Libya

LD042126 Tehran IRNA in English 1321 GMT 4 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 4, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Sunday met with President 'Ali Khamene'i and briefed him on the outcomes of his recent tour of Libya and Syria. Velayati heading a delegation including minister of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Mohsen Rafiqdust travelled to Libya last week to pledge Iran's support for the Tripoli government against any U.S. aggression.

During his visit to Syria Velayati gave President Hafiz al-Asad a message from his Iranian counterpart President 'Ali Khamene'i.

Khamene'i Urges SAIRI To Act Against Iraqi Regime

LD021803 Tehran IRNA in English 1755 GMT 2 May 86

[Text] Tehran, Khuzestan Prov., May 2, IRNA — The Second General Assembly of the sixth term of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) opened in a city of Khuzestan Province Friday with a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i.

The president in his message, called the meeting "a thorn in the eyes" of those who did not want Muslim Iraqi forces to get united in Iraq's political scene. It said that mobilization of Iraqi people and SAIRI's military operations were important development at this crucial juncture in the existence of the Ba'thist government.

SAIRI's political-propagation activities as well as the international branch of its movement should take inspiration from its military jihad (holy war), he said. "Iraqi Ba'th party and its ruler Saddam Husayn are now-a-days spending their bitterest most difficult days in the history of their illegal reign over the Islamic country of Iraq", the president said.

From the military point of view, Khamene'i said, the Iraqi regime has sustained bitter defeats int he battle fields and has failed to rescue itself from its own trap, despite massive assistance from the U.S. and other western and eastern powers as well as reactionary states.

Khamene'i further said that political support for the Iraqi regime these days amount to the issuing of a resolution which however, does nothing to redeem its prestige, because he noted this regime's miscalculations has placed it on the verge of collapse.

On the state of Iraq's economy, Khamene'i said, monetary aid of global arrogance and reactionary Arab states to the Baghdad government would only add to its foreign debts and would in no way affect Iran's resolve to do away with the ruling regime in Iraq.

The president also called on the SAIRI members to beware of the plot hatched by enemies of Islam to introduce dubious Muslim personalities and institutions in the political scene of Iraq. He urged them to take suitable measures to foil the plot.

The SAIRI should also try to institutionalize Islamic culture in Iraq and raise consciousness of Iraqi people especially the country's youth while simultaneously keeping up the military pressure, Khamene'i said.

After reading the president's message, the SAIRI head in his address to the gathering said that mere political activity was not enough to topple the ruling Ba'thist regime in Iraq, but that armed jihad should be accelerated to free the Iraqi people from the tyrannical regime. He also called on all Muslim Iraqi forces to go to the fronts and participate in the fight to topple the dictatorial regime of Iraq.

Reportage on Visit of SDAR Education Minister

Arrives in Tehran

GF020725 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 2 May 86

[Text] Mr Sayyid Ahmad al-Batal, education minister of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, arrived in Tehran this morning and was welcomed by our country's education minister. Speaking on the aims of his visit to Iran, Mr Sayyid Ahmed al-Batal spoke to our correspondent. He said: This visit takes place as part of the ties between the two countries and will have a tangible effect on strengthening bilateral relations.

He added: I have been assigned by Saharan President Mr Mohamed Abdelaziz to convey his heartiest greetings to the great leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah Khomeyni, and the Islamic Republic of Iran's authorities. The Saharan Democratic Arab Republic's education minister stressed that the Islamic revolution of Iran is the supporter of all revolutions in the world. He said: On behalf of the leader and people of the [Western] Sahara I condemn the barbaric Iraqi attack on the Islamic Republic of Iran, which took place on the orders of the United States. I am convinced that the motive of this attack was to prevent the progress of the Muslim nations, because the Islamic Republic of Iran is the hope of the oppressed of the world.

In an interview with our correspondent, our country's education minister, Mr Akrami, explained the details of the visit of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic's visit to our country to which we draw your attention:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Akrami, would you inform us of the role of the Saharan delegation, headed by the education minister, in expanding educational and cultural ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Akrami] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In consonance with the guidance of the great Islamic ideology, we have ties with all Muslim countries, neighbors, and countries under domination. We desire to expand relations with them in political, economic, and cultural fields. It is in this regard that our brother Saharan Education Minister Mr Sayyid Ahmad al-Batal expressed his desire to visit Tehran some time ago. Now the preliminaries have been completed. The program for the next few days includes discussions on educational topics, and what we have achieved in that field. We hope that the beneficial experiences of the revolutionary Muslims in this country will be useful to Mr Sayyid Ahmad al-Batal, the esteemed education minister of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic and his accompanying delegates.

By the grace of God, new experiences and revolutionary trends have occurred in all fields and our educational experiences will prove advantageous for all who wish to live as free and independent Muslims. [end recording]

Meets With Counterpart

LD030900 Tehran IRNA in English 0835 GMT 3 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 3, IRNA — The visiting education minister of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), Sayyid Ahmad al-Batal, said here Friday that Muslim Saharan people were fighting for their legitimate rights and for Islam. In a meeting with the Iranian minister of education, Kazem Akrami, Al-Batal said that with the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, the Saharan people had found a strong support for the continuation of their struggle.

Meanwhile, Akrami pointed to the grave responsibility of the education system in Iran following the victory of the Islamic revolution in training a generation committed to Islamic principles. The two sides later discussed cultural relations between the two countries.

Confers With Foreign Minister

LD042318 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 May 86

[Text] Ahmad al-Batal, the Western Saharan education and training minister, this morning conferred with Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati. In this meeting, Al-Batal, in explaining the Western Saharan people's successful struggle against the reactionary regime of Hassan, the king of Morocco, said: Despite the dastardly war imposed on you, we consider your continued support for the liberation struggles by the Western Saharan people as a guarantee for victory.

In response, Velayati expressed his hopes for a final victory for the Saharan people, saying: The most fundamental issue in the struggles of the Muslim people of Sahara is reliance on Islam — that will guarantee the final victory. In conclusion, he expressed the support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the liberation struggles of the Saharan people.

Meets With Islamic Guidance Minister

LD042325 Tehran IRNA in English 1739 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] Tehran, May 4, IRNA — Visiting education minister of Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) Ahmad al-Batal met and conferred with minister of Ershad-e Eslami (Islamic Guidance) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami and higher education minister Mohammad Farhadi here Sunday.

During the meeting Iranian ministers announced willingness of the Islamic Republic to establish educational and cultural [words indistinct] will also admit SADR students to its universities, they added.

Meanwhile, SADR Minister Al-Batal and his accompanying delegation inspected an Iraqi POW camp here on the same day. Batal also visited two technical and vocational complexes of blind students during which he expressed hope that his country could take advantage of Iranian technical and vocational experiences.

Meets With President

LD051302 Tehran IRNA in English 1205 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 5, IRNA — Education Minister of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) Sayyid Ahmad al-Batal Monday met President 'Ali Khamene'i and briefed him on the current social and political stance of his country vis-a-vis Morocco and imperialism. He said Muslim Saharan people regarded their revolution as the continuation of the Islamic revolution of Iran to which they would remain loyal for ever.

In response, President Khamene'i said that Iran was following the Saharan issues with keen interest because of the importance of its struggle against global arrogance. Efforts of arrogant

powers to strengthen the Moroccan regime were signs of their weakness in confrontation with popular and Islamic resistance of Muslim Saharan people, Khamene'i said.

The president added that despite ever increasing plots of global arrogance to suppress Islamic movements in northern Africa, the advance of these movements in the region could be clearly seen. There was no doubt that Muslim Saharan people would continue their struggle and their indepth Islamic faith would help them tolerate any hardship, Khamene'i said.

Lorestan Province Sustains Flood Damage
LD051002 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] Following heavy rainfalls and floods in Lorestan Province, some villages, public buildings, residential areas, farms, and livestock have sustained major damage. The Central News Unit reports that, following the recent rainfalls, more than 60 villages in Lorestan, especially Alashtar, Nurabad, Chegeni, Azna, Dorud, Pol-e Dokhtar and 'Ali Gudarz have sustained damage. More than 20 people have lost their lives.

The same report indicates that Pol-e Dokhtar district situated in the southern part of Lorestan Province is completely flooded. More than 15 bridges have been destroyed, and many communicating roads in some villages and districts have been closed. Preliminary investigations by the flood relief headquarters show more than 3 billion rials of damage. A river has also overflowed its banks and flooded the Khorramabad—Andimeshk road. Light vehicles will not be able to travel along this road. Lorestan flood relief headquarters has been set up to help flood victims. The Khorramabad—Borujerd road has been closed since last night due to flooding that has covered the (?Chalamchulan) bridge.

Hamadan Province Division Leaves for War Fronts
LD021527 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 May 86

[Text] In connection with the dispatch of a division of the combatant forces from Hamadan Province to the warfronts, the correspondent of the Central News Unit sends the following report from Hamadan: This morning, a division of the redispatched volunteer forces, comprised of staff of government departments and institutions, factory workers, teachers, and students from the cities of Hamadan, Malayer, Nahavand and Tuysarkan and the districts of Asadabad, Bahar, Kabutarahang, Razan, and (Samenin), within the framework of the 7th Karbala' marchers convoy and the 3d Labbayk Ya Imam convoy, left for the fronts of light against darkness.

After passing through a number of streets in the city, where they were given a send-off by throngs of Hamadan citizens, and after visiting the city's martyrs cemetery and renewing their covenant with the blood of the martyrs cemetery and renewing their covenant with the blood of the martyrs of the Islamic Revolution and the imposed war, they left for the battlefields.

More Combatants Leave for Battlefront
LD021532 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 May 86

[Text] At midday today, an independent mobilization brigade from the Central Province left for the battlefront after participating in Friday prayers in Tehran. According to a Central News Unit report the mobilization forces from Qom and Arak, one brigade strong and entirely made up of combatants, after attending Tehran's Friday prayers, left for the battlefronts today. According to a Central News Unit report 600 police personnel — NCO's, members of staff, junior and senior officers, and religio-political clergymen in the police in the country's various provinces — left for the southern fronts at midday today after taking part in the Friday prayers. It is noteworthy that yesterday too, 600 police personnel, after meeting the Islamic Consultative Assembly, left for the battlefronts.

Convoys, 500 Technical Personnel Leave for Front
LD042331 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 May 86

[Excerpts] Our correspondent reports from Khorasan Province on a Karbala wayfarers convoy setting off from Mashhad:

The sixth convoy of Karbala' wayfarers form Khorasan Province, included in the Third Convoy of Labbayak ya Imam, and formed by two divisions of students, workers, teachers, and pupils left for the warfronts aboard trains this afternoon. They were seen off with enthusiastic celebrations by their relatives and the thronging residents of Mashhad. The participants in the sixth convoy of Khorasan Province marched along a number of Mashhad thoroughfares and chanted slogans expressing their support for the continuation of the war until victory.

Further, concurrent with the above convoy, more than 500 skilled technical personnel of Khorasan Reconstruction Jihad Department left, amid enthusiastic ceremonies, to the warfronts earlier this morning. A volunteer division of popular forces from Khorasan Province also departed for training bases at the same time.

This report indicates that yesterday students of Ferdowsi University of Mashhad staged a march and announced their complete readiness to join the other warriors of the Islamic Army.

Islamic Guard Unit Recruits Volunteers
LD050220 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 4 May 86

[Text] The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps' District 1 Sarollah unit [urban patrol] declared: This district is accepting, from among volunteers, honorary guards in order to complete its combat cadre in the following fields: Command, ground (combat), armored equipment, artillery, news services, engineer-combat, mechanics for heavy vehicles, first level drivers for dump trucks and bulldozers, levellers, and painters. This category of guards will receive the same wages and fringe-benefits granted to the official category of guards. Volunteers can go to the

following bases in order to obtain more information and to register their names: Shemiranad, Shahid Beheshti, Malek Ashtar, Abuzar, Meqdad, Karaj, Saujublagh, Sharhiyar, Islamshahr, Shar-e (?Rey), Varamin, Damavand, and Firuzkuh.

Iran, Iraq Deny Responsibility for Tanker Sinking

LD021442 Tehran IRNA in English 1412 GMT 2 may 86

[Text] London, May 2, IRNA — A British sea captain and two Pakistani crewmen of an oil tanker on its way to a Saudi Arabian oil port were killed in an attack in the Persian Gulf Thursday. London shipping sources said the attack on the 31,521-ton Saudi Arabian tanker *Al-Safaniyah* took place 75 miles off the coast of Abu Dhabi in the southern Persian Gulf. Two missiles hit the crew compartment, killing the three and injuring six others.

Neither Iran nor Iraq claimed responsibility for the attack and there was confusion on whether the attack was carried out by a helicopter gunship or an aircraft.

Meanwhile the British Foreign Office said Friday it could not confirm the death of the British captain. "Naturally we are very concerned about such reports" a spokesman said and added that urgent steps were being taken to identify the men. He said if the reports were correct Britain would respond against the attacking party.

Iraq has an official policy on attacking ships on Iranian shipping routes. Ships doing business with the southern Persian Gulf states which are among Iraq's biggest financial backers in the war against Iran, have been attacked in the region in the past.

But Iran has denied reports of attacks by its air force on ships in the Persian Gulf, including one last month. It has however reported searches against more than a dozen ships in the region by its navy, to check against goods being carried to Iraq.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,458

LD021702 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 2 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 2 IRNA — Iranian fighter bombers pounded Iraqi troops concentration centers as well as their command post in Faqqeh region at 02:25 GMT Friday inflicting considerable casualties on them. All planes returned to their bases safely, according to a military communique here.

The communique number 2458 released by the joint staff Command of the Armed Forces said Iranian navy inspected a merchant ship as well as two tankers near the Strait of Hormuz Thursday. The ships set sail when no Iraqi-bound cargo was identified on board.

Over the past 24 hours Iranian combatants launched a coordinated attack on Iraqi positions in Sayyid Khan region capturing a strategically important height, the command said. The Iraqi forces were forced to retreat from the area suffering heavy casualties and losses, it added. During the operation a good number of weapons as well as munitions including R.P.G-7 rounds and mortars were taken as booty and one Iraqi soldier was captured, said the communique.

An Iraqi patrol unit was subjected to Iranian artillery fire when trying to infiltrate their positions in Qasr-e Shirin. The unit was forced to flee the region. Muslim combatants also brought Iraqi engineering and armored units as well as their fortifications under heavy artillery fire in Sumar, Naft-e Shah and Mehran, said the communique.

In southern fronts exchange of fire continued being somewhat more intense in eastern Basra, eastern Al-'Amarah and operational region of Faqqeh, the command said.

Elsewhere the command said movements of Iraqi armoured units in the region opposite Chazzabeh and that of their motorized columns near Eynkhosh and Nahr-Anbar were disturbed as a result of Iranian artillery fire.

Iraqi long-range artillery fire damaged 15 houses in the city of Abadan in Khuzestan Province Thursday, the communique concluded.

1,700 Iraqi Forces Killed

LD030546 Tehran IRNA in English 0541 GMT 3 May 86

[Text] Khatam ol-Anbiya' HQ., May 3, IRNA — In a penetration attack launched to destroy Iraqi forces in Faqqeh, southern front, the Islamic Forces of Iran killed 1700 Iraqi troops, smashed over 30 tanks and set ablaze a large amount of Iraqi munition Friday night.

Khatam ol-Anbiya' joint headquarters of the Army and the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps announced Saturday morning that the forces of Islam, capturing a number of Iraqis, returned to their bases safely. The penetration attack was launched under heavy rainfall which paralyzed the Iraqi enemy to embark on any action, the announcement added.

2,100 Iraqi Die in Faqqeh Offensive

LD031035 Tehran IRNA in English 1033 GMT 3 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 3, IRNA — At least 2100 Iraqi troops were killed and heavy equipment losses were inflicted on enemy troops during an overnight assault by Iran's Islamic Combatants in the Faqqeh region, northwest of the border town of Bostan in Khuzestan Province.

The infiltration operation was launched at 23:30 hours local time (20:00 hours GMT) Friday in the course of which heavy losses and casualties were inflicted on 24th mechanized brigade, 27th Armored Brigade from the 10th Armored Corps, the sixth Armored Brigade from the Third Corps, as well as three brigades from the First Army of Iraq. In this successful operation, over 60 enemy tanks, tens of personnel carriers as well as a large quantity of enemy arms and ammunitions were also destroyed by Iran's Islamic combatants.

The smoke of demolished enemy equipment still welled into the air (at the time of the report's transmission) and corpses of Iraqi soldiers littered the operational region. A number of enemy forces were also taken captive by the Iranian combatants who returned to their bases safely. The rainfall at the time of the operation as well as invisible divine aids enable d Iran's Muslim fighters to carry out the operation more swiftly.

Iraqi Casualties Put at 4,000

LD040913 Tehran IRNA in English 0855 GMT 4 May 86

[Text] Khatam ol-Anbiya' HQ, May 4, IRNA — The number of casualties inflicted on the Iraqi forces during an infiltration attack launched Friday [2 May] by the Islamic Forces of Iran in Faqqeh, southern front, rose to 4,000 killed or wounded.

During the attack, the 24th Mechanized and 27th Armoured Brigades of the 10th Armoured Division, 6th Armoured Brigade of the 3d Division and three brigades from the 1st Division sustained heavy damage. Over 76 tanks, 110 personnel carriers and large amount of munition of the Iraqi forces were destroyed by the Muslim forces of Iran.

Tehran Reports Faqqeh Successes

LD041101 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 May 86

[Telephone dispatch by Central News Unit correspondent from the Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters of the "Val-Fajr-8" operational area]

[Text] In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful. Following the victorious operations of the courageous combatants of Islam in the Faqqeh region, which was aimed at destroying enemy positions and killing enemy personnel this morning, the combatants of Islam launched a limited infiltrating offensive against enemy tank positions situated on Al-Faw-Umm Qasr axis. Several enemy tanks together with their crews were set on fire. The smoke from this fire was seen clearly from the Al-Fawm-Umm Qasr road. Following this limited offensive, the enemy tanks left their positions and fled the area. One of the POW's captured during the operations two nights ago in the Faqqeh area, said: Before being captured, I noticed that in the attack of the combatants of Islam against our positions, only four armored personnel carriers out of the 14 belonging to our battalion remained. The other 10 personnel carriers were set on fire by the antitank fire from the Army of the Forces of Islam.

Communique No 2,459

LD031540 Tehran IRNA in English 1535 GMT 3 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 3, IRNA — Iranian naval forces inspected four commercial ships and two oil tankers sailing under foreign flags in the Hormuz Strait Friday but allowed them to continue their voyage after being satisfied that they were not carrying any Iraqi bound goods, according to a military communique here Saturday.

Communique 2459 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said Iranian Gendarmerie forces in addition to inflicting substantial casualties and losses on Iraqi forces in Qasr-e Shirin and Ilam, set fire to several observation posts and one munition dump of the enemy in Bayat and Zobeydah killing or wounding at least 20 Iraqi soldiers.

The command said that exchange of artillery fire between Iranian Muslim combatants and Iraqi troops continued in the southern fronts Friday raging somewhat more heavily in the Majnun Islands and Hoseyniyeh.

Heavy artillery fire of Islamic Forces of Iran set fire to parts of Iraqi engineering hardware in Jofeyr and halted the movements of enemy armoured and motorized units elsewhere in Yabis, Chenaneh and Nahr-e Anbar. All operations of Iraqi forces in these fronts were minimized.

In Nahr-e Anbar, the communique said, casualties and damages were inflicted on an Iraqi patrol unit trying to infiltrate Iranian positions, forcing it to flee.

Iranian Muslim combatants traded heavy artillery fire with Iraqi troops in Sumar and Mehran, both in Bakhtaran and Ilam border fronts, destroying several bunkers and observation posts of the enemy forces and killing their crew, said the joint staff.

The communique said Iranian forces shelled an Iraqi commando unit in Sumar and killed a number of them Friday.

Elsewhere the communique said heavy surface-to-air fire of Iranian Muslim combatants repulsed some Iraqi warplanes which tried to violate the airspace of Sardasht and Piranshahr.

In the northwestern, the communique said [as received], Muslim forces shelled positions and fortifications of Iraqi forces killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying parts of their positions and military bases.

Communique No 2,460

LD041610 Tehran IRNA in English 1541 GMT 4 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 4, IRNA — Heavy artillery was traded between Iranian Muslim and Ba'thist troops in ongoing battles in the north western fronts Saturday, as a result of which substantial casualties and losses were inflicted on enemy forces. They were also prevented from bring in reinforcement.

The joint staff communique number 2460 released Sunday says that Iraqi warplanes violated the airspace of Piranshahr and Orumiyeh, both in West Azarbayjan Province, but were forced to flee by Iranian anti aircraft fire.

The communique says, sporadic artillery duels continued in the western fronts raging somewhat more heavily in Naft-e Shah as a result of which five Iraqi gun emplacements and observation posts together with one munitions dump were set ablaze. A number of enemy soldiers were also killed or wounded.

In Kushk and Majnun Islands, the communique says, exchange of artillery fire continued and Iranian combatants maintained the upper hand and took full control of the fronts.

Casualties and damage were inflicted on Iraqi forces.

Heavy artillery fire of Muslim forces of Iran prevented some Iraqi tank and armoured units and changing positions or strengthening positions of enemy troops in areas overlooking Hoseyniyeh and Eynkhosh in the southern fronts.

It also halted engineering operations of Iraqi forces, according to the communique.

Iraqis Shell Abadan

LD041718 Tehran IRNA in English 1711 GMT 4 May 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., May 4 IRNA — The city of Abadan was subjected to Iraqi long-range artillery fire over the past 24 hours as a result of which 30 houses were damaged and several civilian areas sustained losses.

Sporadic fire of the Iranian combatants on Iraqi positions near Sibeh, western Arvand River killed or wounded over 35 Iraqi soldiers also inflicting damage on their military hardware. Muslim combatants also checked an Iraqi armoured column near 'Abd al-Khasib region and disturbed its movement by their artillery fire.